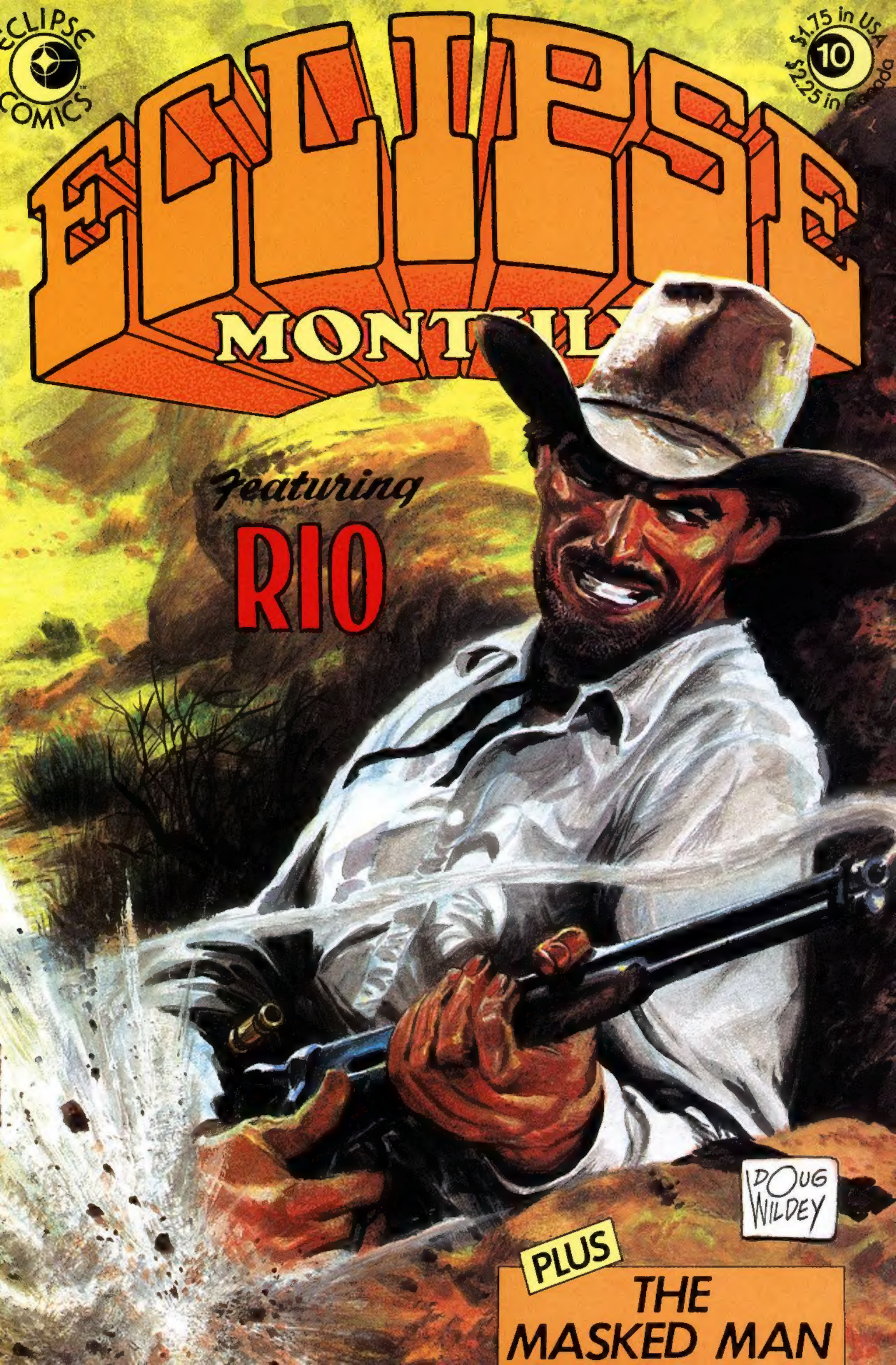
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10
ECLIPSE
MONTHLY
Featuring
RIO
DOUG WILDEY
PLUS
THE MASKED MAN

LETTERS TO SURF CITY

Send your letters to: ECLIPSE COMICS, P. O. Box 199, Guerneville, California 95446

Dear Editor,

Thought I should let you know I just started reading your mag. Why, you ask? *Carlos McLlyr, the Californio*! Actually, I'm an artist and it was the startling cover that snared me (and a Spanish western plot with a little runic magic tossed in). Perfect blend! Hope you plan to keep the Ledger/Marx combination in your magazine because I'll keep buying!

Natalie Knight
6817 Camelot
Peoria, IL 61615

Dear Eclipse,

I have enjoyed *The Masked Man* since its inception, as I have most of the features that have been presented in *Eclipse Monthly*. With "Phantom Man" in *EM* no. 8, however, B.C. Boyer has really gone over the top. The story was both amusing and deeply touching. I can not imagine a more appropriate tribute to Will Eisner and his marvelous creation.

In response to your question concerning devoting entire issues to single features, I am not in favor of such a move. I enjoy the variety offered by the anthology format, and would like to see it continue. If a given feature becomes popular enough, it could be granted its own book, ala *Cap'n Quick and a Foozle*.

Neal Harkness
28315 Gratiot
Roseville, MI 48066

Eclipsoids:

I admit, the inclusion of "Dirty Pool at Mania Badge" in *Eclipse Monthly* no. 8 pleasantly surprised me. Aside from being one of McGregor's better stories, it fits in more with the variety I remember from your earlier b&w magazine, than the more mainstream stories seen currently. Bravo, more!

While I appreciated B.C. Boyer's tribute to Will Eisner, why didn't he dedicate the story to the master he is so imitative of?

And, to not credit the tracing on the last panel of page 5 makes Mr. Boyer a plagiarist. Slagging homosexuals I was willing to tolerate (I'm not one, by the way), but if I do not see some sort of apology to Mr. Eisner in issue no. 9, I will cease to buy your magazine.

Mike Norwitz
4949 E. Shaw Butte
Scottsdale, AZ 85254

Dear Editor,

With confessions being the theme of the Maked Man series in *Eclipse Monthly* no. 7, I would like to offer a few of my own.

First and foremost, I don't like seeing The Masked Man relegated to a measly 10 pages in *EM* when he deserves his own magazine.

Second, Barney McAllister is much too forlorn a personality to receive as much exposure in this lighthearted series.

Third, who is Dick Carstairs and why did he choose the life of a super-hero?

Jeffrey Lowndes
809 Sunset Street
Scranton, PA 18509

Dear Dean, Cat and the Gang,

I've never felt the need to write into a comic letters page before, but The Masked Man story in *Eclipse* no. 8 finally convinced me.

I've enjoyed every installment of The Masked Man since no. 1 and it has become one of my all-time favorite comics (it's one of the few comics I can hardly stand to wait for each month.)

"Phantom Man" was one of the most touching stories I've ever read. Maybe it's because I'm a big Spirit fan or maybe it's because I get caught up in good stories. I don't know, but whatever it is, it sure put a lump in my throat when Winchester handed Barney his mask at the end.

B.C. Boyer is doing a fantastic job. His sketchy drawing fits perfectly with his storytelling technique. His characters, though often 'off the wall' (in Aphid-Man's case, literally 'off-the-wall'), are believable and human, and that's rare in comics these days. Well, that's about it. What more can I say but "wow" and "thanks!"

Patrick McEown
51 Muriel Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1S 4C9

Thanks, Natalie, Neal, Mike, Patrick and Jeffrey, and everyone else who wrote us about recent issues. "Phantom Man" has become the most talked-about and best-received story we have ever run in Eclipse Monthly *. . . bar none.*

B.C.'s stories strike a chord in many of us, and this particular story struck a symphony! As everyone guessed, "Phantom Man" was partially a tribute to Will Eisner and The Spirit. *However,* The Masked Man *himself was not designed in imitation of Eisner's work. B.C. had never read a* Spirit *story until Cat commented to him that the plot for the fourth* Masked Man *reminded her of Eisner's approach to storytelling. On the basis of Cat's recommendation, B.C. decided to give* The Spirit *a try. Needless to say, B.C. is now a great admirer of Will's work. The similarities between* The Spirit *and* The Masked Man *lie not in any imitative method, but rather in that both series use the short story form to spin tales dealing with human nature and human interest.*

At any rate, to address Mike Norwitz's comments about plagiarism, I hope, Mike, that you're still reading as of this issue and now understand the nature of B.C.'s tribute. And don't forget, we published Will Eisner's classic John Law Detective *last year!*

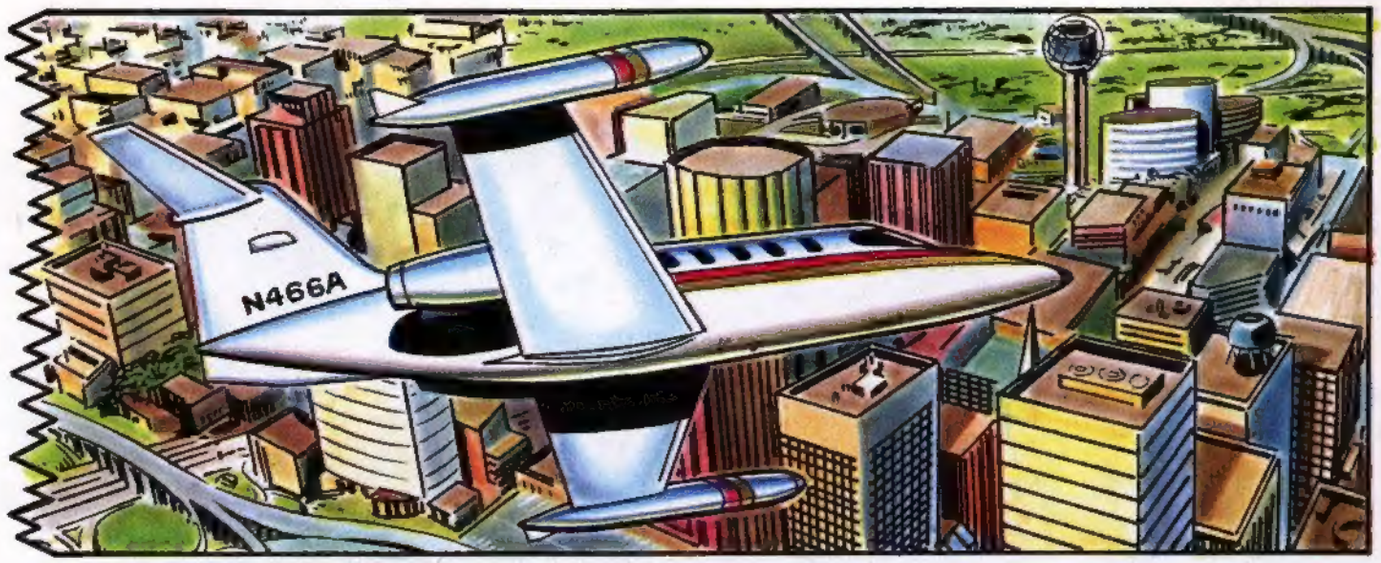
And by the way, we can't think of anyone who knows more about Will Eisner's work than Cat. She is, after all, the reprint editor and columnist for The Spirit *color comic — available at the same fine comics shop where you bought this issue — and is also Will's biographer with* The Art of Will Eisner.

BIG ANNOUNCEMENT!

Sad to say, this is the last issue of *Eclipse Monthly*. To all you loyal readers (including those of you who have been with us since the days of the b&w magazine), we can only say that not enough of your fellow fans are willing to support an anthology comics mag. But don't think that we've lost our commitment to bringing variety comics to the market. We will continue to do that. And we'll also do our best to continue to offer stories for the older reader (the average age of *EM*'s readers is an incredible 31!) . . . in our other comics.

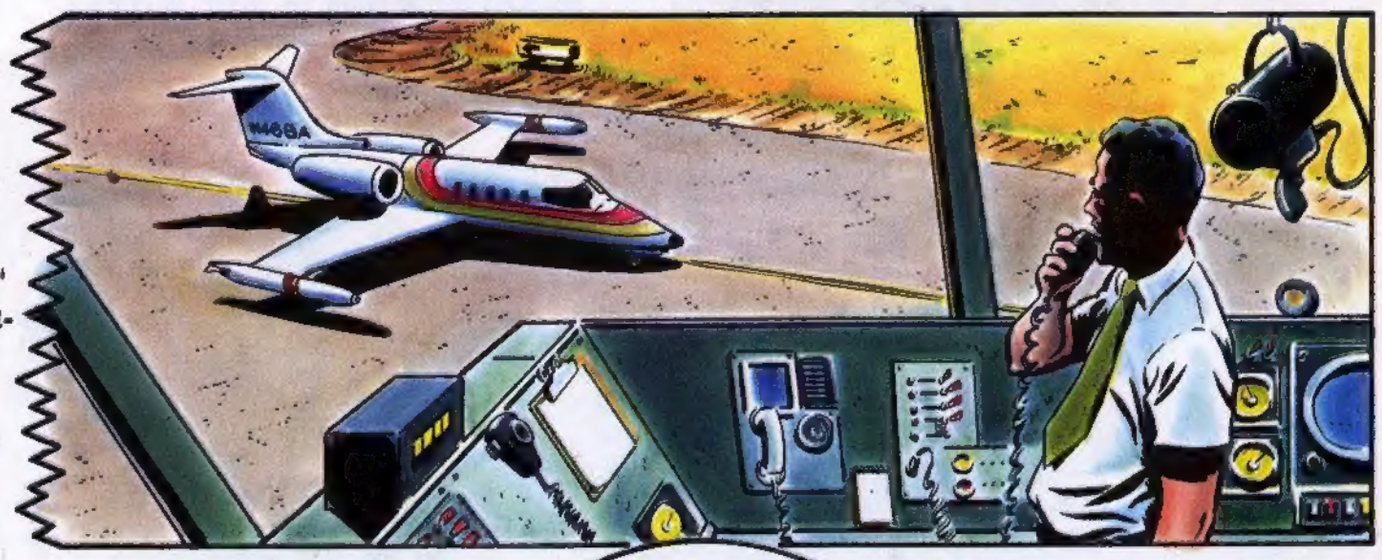
But all is not lost. Look at page 31 of this issue and see the second Big Announcement! Come December, THE MASKED MAN no. 1 will be in your hands. This series is the most popular in *EM*, and certainly strong enough to make it on its own in this single character dominated market. So, if you enjoyed "Phantom Man," let's meet again in December for the return of Maggie Brown, more of Aphid-Man (including his deep secret!), and for those of you like Jeffrey who came in late, *the origin of The Masked Man!*

ECLIPSE MONTHLY (0737-6189) Vol. 1, No. 10, July 1984. Published by Eclipse Enterprises, 81 Delaware Street, Staten Island, NY 10304. Dean Mullaney and catherine yronwode, editors. The Masked Man © 1984 B.C. Boyer. Rio © 1984 Doug Wildey. Jetta Sixx © 1984 Wayne Truman. All other material © 1984 Eclipse Enterprises. All rights reserved. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions, in this magazine with those of any living or dead person, or real institution, is intended and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in Canada.



LOVE TOWER, LEARJET FOUR-SIX-SIX-ALPHA AT THE MARKER ....

LEAR SIX-SIX-ALPHA, CLEARED TO LAND, THREE-ONE-RIGHT.



WELCOME TO DALLAS, JETTA 'N' D.C.-- CONTACT GROUND CONTROL, ONE-TWO-ONE-POINT-NINER...

LOVE GROUND, LEAR SIX-SIX-ALPHA, CLEAR THREE-ONE RIGHT, GOING TO FAME AERO.

SIX-SIX-ALPHA, TAXI TO FAME.

'BOUT A FIFTY MINUTE DRIVE SOUTH OF DALLAS ON THE SUPERSLAB THAT GOES TO SAN'TONE IS A L'LE BITTY OL' TOWN NAMED ARMADILLO... AN' RIGHT NEXT TO IT IS A GREAT BIG OL' AIRPORT--ONE OF HUNDREDS BUILT BY THE ARMY DURING WORLD WAR TWO, THEN ABANDONED. D.C. SIXX OPERATES HIS VARIOUS AVIATION ENTERPRISES THERE, D.B.A. **ARMADILLO AIR.**

RIGHT NOW, D.C. AND HIS CHIEF PILOT ARE PICKING UP A CHARTER OF OIL EXECS AT DALLAS...

OH, BY THE WAY--HIS CHIEF PILOT JES' HAPPENS TO BE HIS DAUGHTER,

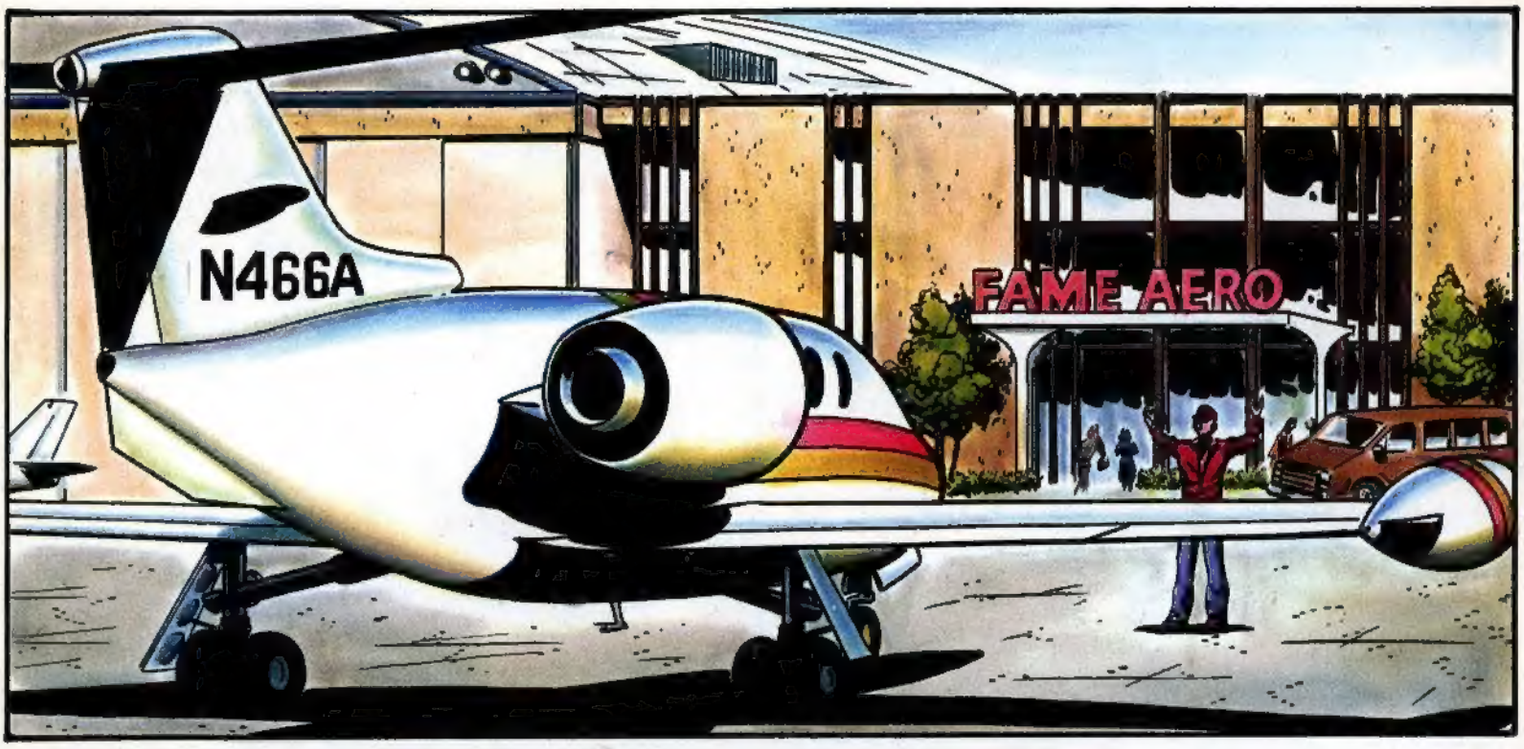
JETTA!!

by WAYNE TRUMAN

EDITOR:
DEAN MULLANEY

COLORS:
STEVE MASSERONI

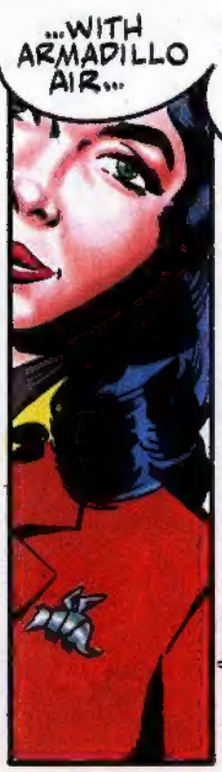
"Flying Too High With Some Guy In The Sky"


N466A
FAME AERO

YOU GO MEET 'N' GREET OUR PASSENGERS, HON... I'LL HAVE THE TANKS TOPPED OFF.

PASSENGER LOUNGE

GOOD MORNING, GENTLEMEN! I'M JETTA SIXX...


...WITH ARMADILLO AIR...

IF YOU'RE READY TO BOARD, WE'LL DEPART AS SOON AS OUR FUELING IS COMPLETED.
3

GREAT STEWARDESS !!
THESE SKIES ARE GONNA BE THE FRIENDLIEST!
HOW'S OUR ENROUTE WEATHER, CAPTAIN ?
SEVERE CLEAR ALL THE WAY, SIR. BUT...
JET A FUEL
TEXXAN
I'M YOUR COPILOT.
JETTA IS YOUR CAPTAIN
LOVE GROUND CONTROL, LEAR FOUR-SIX-SIX-ALPHA, FAME AERO, READY TO TAXI, IFR TO N'ORLEANS.
LEAR SIX-SIX-ALPHA, TAXI TO THREE-ONE RIGHT.
WHILE THIS AIRCRAFT IS IN MOTION THE PILOT IN THE LEFT SEAT IS CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF YOUR CORPORATION
4

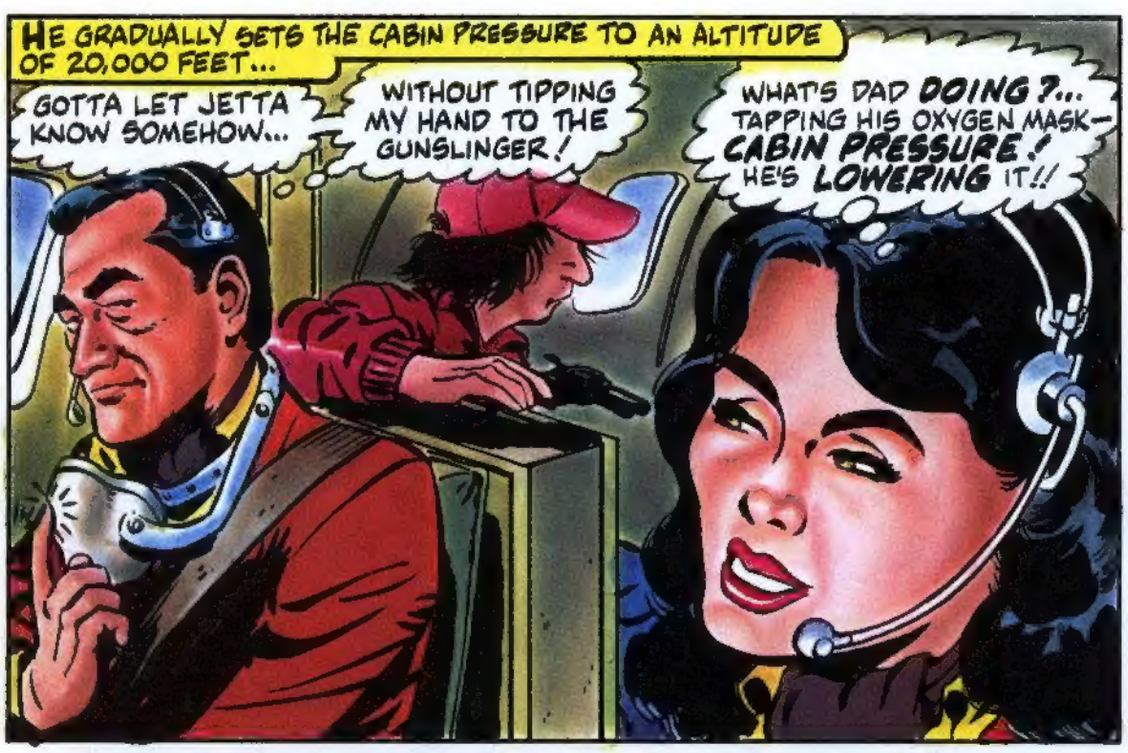
!?!
WHAT TH' HECK IS THAT?!
LINEBOY KNOCKING ON THE HATCH--MUST BE SOME PROBLEM OUTSIDE...
WHAT'S TH---
!?!
FAME AERO
BACK UP! I'M COMIN' ABOARD!!
THIS IS A SKYJACK !!
START YER TAXI-GITCHER CLEARANCE-MAKE YER TAKEOFF-
ACT NORMAL!
FAME AERO
AND BE CAREFUL WHATCHA SAY ON TH' RADIO!
AN' DON'T SET TH' TRANSPONDER ON SEVENTY-SEVEN-HUNDRED--I KNOW THAT'S TH' SKYJACK CODE! OKAY-MOVE IT!
FAME AERO
JUST STAY COOL, MISTER--YOU'RE IN CHARGE. WE'LL DO WHAT YOU SAY!
5

LOVE TOWER, LEAR SIX-SIX-ALPHA IS READY
LEAR SIX-SIX-ALPHA, CLEARED FOR TAKEOFF
SIX-SIX-ALPHA, CONTACT DEPARTURE CONTROL ONE-TWO-TWO-FIVE-POINT-SIX-TWO -- GOOD DAY.
SIX-SIX-ALPHA TO TWO-FIVE-POINT-SIX-TWO -- SEE YA'LL LATER.
I HOPE!
WHY SKYJACK US? WE DON'T HAVE THE RANGE TO TAKE YOU OUT OF THE COUNTRY.
IT AIN'T A SKYJACK -- IT'S A KIDNAPPING! OF DOUGLAS D. WELLES, HERE... PRES'DINT OF TEXXAN OIL!
OKAY--HERE'S YER NEW FLIGHT PLAN. LISSEN GOOD-IT COULD BE A MATTER OF LIFE OR DEATH--FOR YEW!
SOON AS YA REACH YER ASSIGNED ALTITUDE TURN TO A HEADING OF TWO-FOUR-ZERO, SHUT OFF YER COMMUNICATION RADIOS AND TRANSPONDER!
THERE'S AN ABANDONED AIRPORT IN PECOS COUNTY. IT'S A WORLD WAR TWO LEFTOVER WITH RUNWAYS LONG ENUFF TO HANDLE THIS AIRPLANE. WE'LL HOLD MISTER TEXXAN PRES'DINT THERE WHILE TH' RANSOM 'RANGEMENTS 'R' MADE...
AWRIGHT, SHUT DOWN YER RADIOS NOW AN' TURN TO THE HEADING I GAVE YEW!
HAMS AERO
6

FOUR-SIX-SIX-ALPHA, FORT WORTH CENTER-- RADAR CONTACT LOST. RESET YOUR TRANS-PONDER AND IDENT.
LEAR FOUR-SIX-SIX-ALPHA, DO YOU READ CENTER?
LEAR FOUR-SIX-SIX-ALPHA WENT OFF THE SCOPE EIGHTY DME THE SCURRY ONE-TWENTY DEGREE RADIAL--NO VOICE CONTACT!
CLEAR THEIR ALTITUDE AND KEEP TRYING. ANY OTHER TRAFFIC IN THAT AREA THAT MIGHT SPOT THEM?

AS SIX-SIX-ALPHA CRUISES AT 41,000 FEET, NINETY PERCENT OF THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE IS **BELOW** IT. THE AIRPLANE'S LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEM MAINTAINS A CABIN ALTITUDE OF 8,000 FEET. THE PRESSURIZATION CONTROLS ARE LOCATED ON THE COPILOT'S SIDE...

...AND D.C. SIXX'S RIGHT HAND MOVES SURREPTITIOUSLY TOWARD THAT CONTROL.


HE GRADUALLY SETS THE CABIN PRESSURE TO AN ALTITUDE OF 20,000 FEET...
GOTTA LET JETTA KNOW SOMEHOW...
WITHOUT TIPPING MY HAND TO THE GUNSLINGER!
WHAT'S DAD **DOING**?... TAPPING HIS OXYGEN MASK-- **CABIN PRESSURE!** HE'S **LOWERING** IT!!

...BE GLAD WHEN THIZ BI'NUS 'S OVER-- TENSION'S MAKIN' ME FEEL----- DUNNO?... KINDA OUT OF IT!!
AS THE OTHERS BEGIN TO PASS OUT FROM OXYGEN STARVATION, JETTA AND D.C. SNEAK WHIFFS FROM THEIR STANDBY OXYGEN MASKS...
HEY- HOWCUM Y'ALL 'R' 'SLEEP?!
WHA'S HAP'NIN' MEEEEEE!
OX'GEN!!
WHAP
OH NO Y' DON'T!-
YUH TURNED OFF TH' OX'GEN!! AH'LL KILL Y' F' THA'-- AH'LL KILL US ALL!! YUH CAN'T....
CAN'T- CAN'.. BREATHE.. GASP
KLONK
8

JETTA HITS THE OXYGEN OVER RIDE SWITCH ON THE CABIN ENVIRONMENT CONTROL THAT D. C. HAD TURNED OFF WHEN HE LOWERED THE CABIN PRESSURE...
CLIK
AUTO
MAN
OFF
...THE EMERGENCY MASKS DROP --
POP
POP
...AUTOPILOT WILL DO THE FLYING, BUT IF I DON'T GET SOME OXYGEN INTO THESE GUYS FAST, I'LL HAVE A LOAD OF BRAIN DAMAGED ZOMBIES HERE!
'M OKAY NOW, HON-- I'LL RE-PRESSURIZE TH' CABIN, YOU GET ON TH' HORN TO CENTER
FORT WORTH CENTER, LEAR FOUR-SIX-SIX-ALPHA IS WITH YOU, LEVEL AT FOUR-ONE-ZERO, SQUAWKING TWO-ZERO-TWO-SIX, AT THE SAN ANGELO VOR...
LEAR SIX-SIX-ALPHA-- WOT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING THERE ?!?
IT'S A LONG STORY, CENTER-- IF YOU'LL WORK US OUT A CLEARANCE BACK TO LOVE I'LL TELL IT TO YOU.
LATER, BACK AT LOVE FIELD...
SORRY WE HAD TO PUT YOU TO SLEEP, GENTLEMEN--KNOW YOU'RE SUFFERING ANOXIA HEADACHES NOW, BUT IT WAS THE BEST WAY TO TAKE HIM OUT.
NOOO PROBLEM, JETTA-- AFTER ALL, WE'VE HAD HEADACHES FROM BEING TOO HIGH BEFORE!
END

Notes from Surf City

by Jan & Dean Mullaney

SABRE BREAKS OUT!

The new storyline by Don McGregor and the incredible art of Jose Ortiz have been cited as the two overriding reasons that SABRE has again taken its place among the finest books in the market.

And we comics fans aren't the only ones to notice the big changes in the book. Nosiree! Just a few short weeks ago, WNEW-TV in New York aired a special segment of their 10:00 p.m. news program with none other than SABRE and his creator Don McGregor. If you don't live in the New York area (or didn't tune in), you missed seeing Don, complete with Sabre t-shirt proudly emblazoned across his chest! Don talked a bit about SABRE, showing the original art for issue no. 11 by Jose, and painted colors by Rene Reynolds. He also got in a few good points about creators rights in comics and the reasons he is doing SABRE in the first place.

All in all, it was a great plug for us *and* for comics in general. WNEW shot an hour and a half's worth of footage of Don, and we are having the tape edited down to about fifteen minutes. This tape will soon be available to all comics conventions, providing a very interesting and unique interview with one of the most enthusiastic creators in the field. (And just to nip those rumors in the bud, no, there is no truth to the report that Don will soon take over as the news anchorperson on WNEW's 10:00 news program! He says he'd rather write SABRE any time!)

FUTURE SHOCK!

SABRE will also be on display at the Museum of Science and Space Transit Planetarium in Miami, Florida. Considering that Sabre, Melissa and crew are currently hanging out on the beaches of The Sunshine State, we can't think of a more appropriate place to honor the futuristic happenings in the book. The museum is having an exhibit dealing with possible futures, and they invited us to participate. So, if you're down in that area, stop on by the museum. They're located at 3280 South Miami Avenue. And tell 'em Eclipse sent you!

HEY!! KIDS COMICS

The "Eclipse Free Comics Giveaway and Original Art Sweepstakes" conducted at this past summer's San Diego and Dallas conventions turned out to be huge successes. We ended up giving away *thousands* of comics, including back issues of DNAgents, ECLIPSE MONTHLY, SCORPIO ROSE, MS. TREE and DESTROYER DUCK.

The "Original Art Sweepstakes" drew entries from just about everyone in sight, including writers, artists and even editors from other comics companies! The prizes: seven pages of *Masked Man* art by B.C. Boyer! While none of the above mentioned writers, artists or editors were among the winners, we're glad to announce here those who were lucky enough to win a page of B.C.'s original art. Congratulations are in order to Michael Cisneras, Dave Soglinzzo, Barbara J. Randall and Tony Medlet, all from California, and Chuck Royal (who was wearing a ZOT! t-shirt when he picked up his prize!), David Whittaker and some guy whose first name is Niels and whose last name we can't seem to locate, all from the grand state of Texas. Congratulations one and all!

THE BOOK YOU DEMANDED WE PUBLISH!

Every comic book company has one series that is consistently voted by readers as being "Most Deserving of its Own Title." We are no exception.

Since its first appearance in the black-and-white *Eclipse Magazine*, B.C. Boyer's "The Masked Man" has gathered so much positive response that we have been inundated with requests . . . demands! . . . for a solo Masked Man book.

Well, we're finally able to give you what you've so vehemently been asking for. THE MASKED MAN no. 1 goes on sale in December, with a re-telling of the origin story from the hard-to-find *Eclipse Magazine* no. 7 and 8. Told through the eyes of a witness, television camera man Jon Athens, this tale in contained within a present-time adventure in which Dick Carstairs, alias the Masked Man, becomes involved in the political machinations of Mayor Dooright. Because the *Eclipse Magazine* issues are so rare, many fans do not know how Dick, a non-super-powered costumed crimefighter, came to take on the identity of The Masked Man, and this first issue fills in all the details. It also continues the existing sub-plots such as Dick's love affair with the mysterious blind woman, Maggie Brown; his repeated encounters with The Amazing Aphid-Man; and his deep friendship with the dwarf newspaper reporter, Barney McAllister.

Also appearing in MASKED MAN no. 1 is a short story called "Hiram Nash," written by Eric Yarber and illustrated by Val Mayerik. Nash is a hard-boiled detective with a "Dear Abby" complex.

With THE MASKED MAN beginning as a new title in December, we bid a fond farewell to ECLIPSE MONTHLY, which completes its run with no. 10, on sale now with a gorgeous Doug Wildey cover. Look for it . . . and for THE MASKED MAN no. 1.

Until next month . . .

RIO

by DOUG WILDEY

YAH HOO! PASS TH' TEQUILLA!
CANTINA
I HAVE TWENTY FIVE MEN HOLDING THIS TOWN, RIO!
WELL, THEY SAY IT RISES TO THE TOP.
CREAM?
SCUM.
WHAT'D HE SAY...?
WHY, YOU....
HOLD IT! HOLD IT! NOBODY TOUCHES HIM... UNDERSTAND? I'M SAVING HIM FOR THE RUN!
I'M GONN'A WIN A LOT OF MONEY ON OL' RIO!

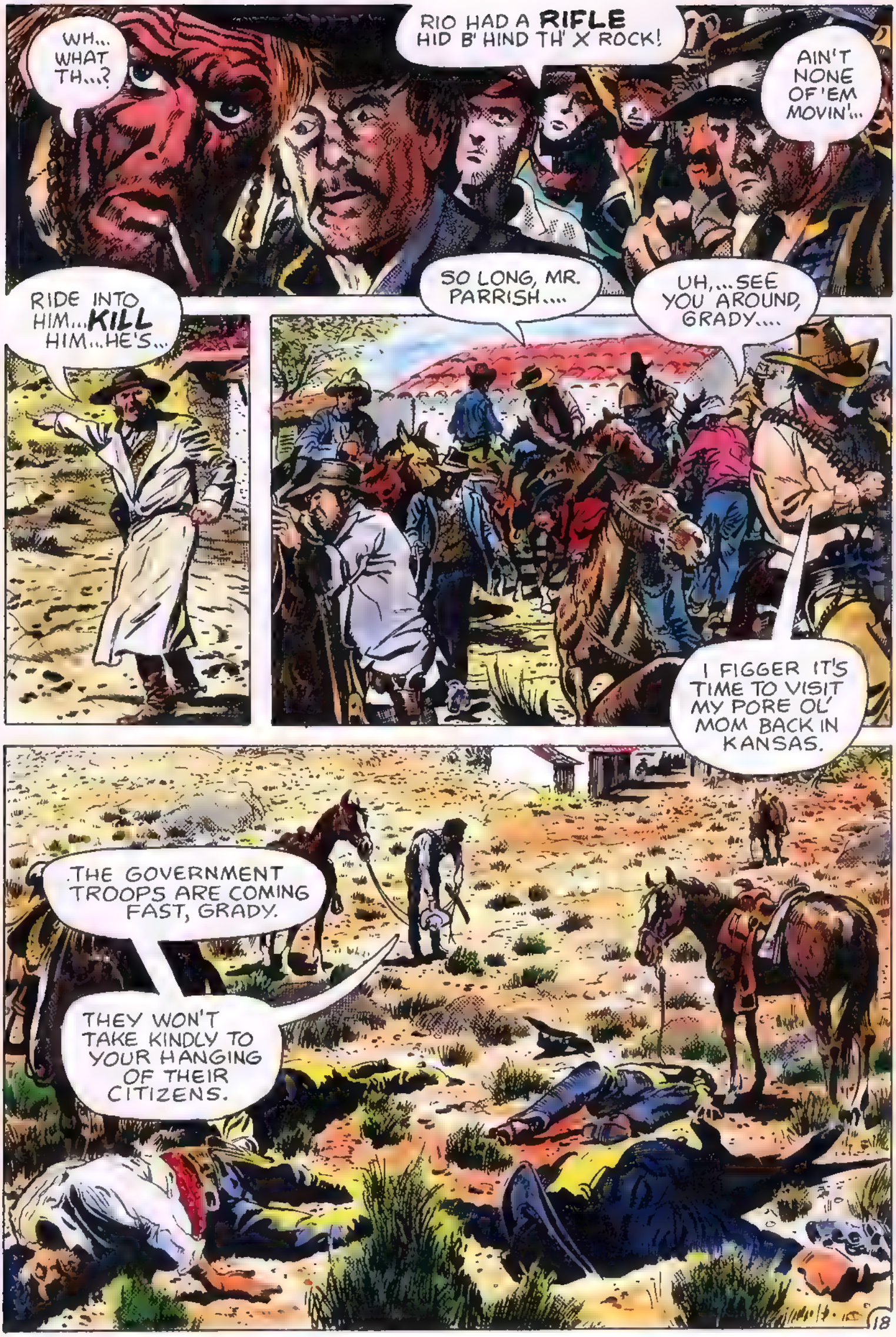
ANY OF YOU MEN THAT DON'T WANT TO TANGLE WITH A TROOP OF MEXICAN SOLDIERS MIGHT GIVE SOME THOUGHT TO MOVING BACK ACROSS THE RIVER.
CERVASH
HAH! WE CAN DEFEND THIS TOWN AGAINST AN ARMY, RIO! WE'VE GOT GUNS, AND WHISKEY, AND WOMEN HERE!
YEAH!
RIGHT!
SURE THING!
THIS IS THE PARRISH GANG!
SOME BUNCH OF 'BAD' MEN. HORSE-THIEVES, SALOON SWAMPERS, AND BACK-ALLEY ASSASSINS.
THE DREGS OF THE BORDER.
AIN'T HE TH' MOUTHY ONE, THOUGH?
GONNA BE A REAL PLEASURE GUNNIN' HIM DOWN!

SHORTLY....
NOW... LET ME EXPLAIN THIS GAME TO YOU, RIO. I'M THE ODDS-MAKER.
I TAKE BETS AND GIVE ODDS ON HOW FAST YOU CAN RUN... AND HOW LONG IT'LL TAKE FOUR MEN TO RIDE YOU DOWN AND KILL YOU.
NATURALLY I'M AFOOT... AND THEY'RE MOUNTED.
NATURALLY. BUT YOU DO GET TWO MINUTES HEAD START BEFORE THEY TAKE OUT AFTER YOU!
THE RIDERS WIN HEAVIEST IF THEY CAN TAKE YOU OUT BEFORE YOU REACH THE X ROCK OUT THERE. IF YOU GET THAT FAR, THE ODDS CHANGE.
YOU'RE STILL DEAD... BUT I WIN BIG!
I'M BETTING ON YOU, RIO!
13

GO!
RUNS PURTY GOOD, DON'T HE?
YEAH. HE MAY REACH TH' X ROCK B'FORE... .... HEY....!
BIG DUST CLOUD TO TH' SOUTH.. .... SEE IT?
MEXICAN ARMY TROOPS!
COUPLE'A HOURS.... THEY'RE GONNA BE ON US!

"AND..." GO!
LUNGS SCORCHED, BREATH RASPING, THE TALL MAN PLUNGES ON... THE HOOFBEATS OF HIS PURSUERS SOUNDING EVER LOUDER...
DON'T ZIG-ZAG, RIO...
"YOU'LL LOSE GROUND..."
"IT TAKES ONE HELLUVA MARKS-MAN TO BE ACCURATE FIRING FROM A GALLOPING HORSE..."

YEP. STILL HERE WHERE I HID IT.
THE LOOKOUT FOUND WHAT I WANTED HIM TO FIND...
...BUT HE DIDN'T LOOK FOR THE SECOND CACHE...
...THIS!


WH... WHAT TH...?
RIO HAD A RIFLE HID B' HIND TH' X ROCK!
AIN'T NONE OF 'EM MOVIN'...
RIDE INTO HIM... KILL HIM... HE'S...
SO LONG, MR. PARRISH....
UH,... SEE YOU AROUND, GRADY....
I FIGGER IT'S TIME TO VISIT MY PORE OL' MOM BACK IN KANSAS.
THE GOVERNMENT TROOPS ARE COMING FAST, GRADY.
THEY WON'T TAKE KINDLY TO YOUR HANGING OF THEIR CITIZENS.

SEEMS THE 'PARRISH GANG' IS DEPARTING, GRADY...
DON'T RAISE THAT PISTOL. YOU'VE NEVER BEEN MUCH AT SHOOTING A MAN FACING YOU.
I .....
I .....
THINK IT OVER, GRADY. THE MEXICAN SOLDIERS'LL TEAR YOU APART WHEN THEY GET HERE SHORTLY....
... OR I DRAG YOU BACK TO THE U.S. TO STAND TRIAL.
...YOU... ...WIN...
UH, HUH, NOW WE GO FIND PENCIL AND PAPER FOR YOU TO WRITE A CONFESSION AS TO HOW YOU FRAMED ME FOR MURDER.

HOURS LATER..
WATER.. ...GOTTA HAVE.... ...WATER.. RIO....
QUIT BLUBBERING. I'LL GIVE YOU A DRINK WHEN WE GET WHERE WE'RE GOING.
WH...WHERE... ...'RE WE... GOING...?
NOT FAR NOW, GRADY, RIGHT UP AHEAD.
FIRST...I WIRE YOUR CONFESSION TO PRESIDENT GRANT...
TELEGRAPH
... THEN, WHEN A NORTH-BOUND TRAIN STOPS HERE, I TURN YOU OVER TO THE TRAINMEN.
WHEN THEY READ YOUR CONFESSION TO KILLING RAILROAD PRESIDENT DORSEY....
THEY'LL NO DOUBT BE GLAD TO GIVE YOU A FREE RIDE TO A COURT TRIAL.
LATER, AS THE NORTHBOUND'S WHISTLE GROWS FAINTER, THE TALL MAN KNEES HIS MOUNT INTO AN EASY LOPE...
WISH I FELT MORE LIKE A LAWMAN...
...MAYBE IF I HAD ONE OF THOSE SHINY TIN STARS...
The End.

True Love
B.Boyce
IT'S GOT TO BE.
YET... I KNOW SO LITTLE ABOUT HER.
STILL...
I WANT TO DRAW CLOSER...
AND CLOSER.
MM1012
FROM THE WRITINGS OF BARNEY McALLISTER:
The MASKED MAN
FRANK CAPRA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
NAME'S BARNEY McALLISTER. I'M A REPORTER. I COVER REMARKABLE PHENOMENA.
MY FRIEND'S NAME IS DICK CARSTAIRS. HE'S A DETECTIVE. HE'S ALSO THE MASKED MAN. HE FIGHTS CRIME.
HE ALSO, I MIGHT ADD, FALLS IN LOVE MUCH TOO EASILY.
IN HIS ARMS IS MAGGIE BROWN. HE MET HER WHILE STOPPING A CRIME. SHE WAS BLINDED BY GUNFIRE.
SINCE DICK FELT HE WAS RESPONSIBLE, HE TOOK IT UPON HIMSELF TO CARE FOR HER.
AND HERE THINGS WERE GOING SO WELL. I HAD JUST GOTTEN DAN DREKSTON OUT OF MY LIFE WHEN DICK REMEMBERED HER...

WRITTEN & PENCILED BY B.C. BOYER ★ INKED BY GERALD FORTON ★ COLORED BY DENIS McFARLING & PHIL DEWALT ★ LETTERED BY L. LOIS BUHALIS ★ EDITED BY CAT & YRONWODE

STEP ON IT, BARN! I PROMISED MISS BROWN I'D BE BACK TO SEE HER THIS AFTERNOON.

WITH MY LUCK, THE MINUTE THEY LAY EYES ON EACH OTHER THEY'D RUN OFF TO TAHITI OR SOMETHING. SO I HAD TO KEEP THEM APART AT ALL COSTS. OTHERWISE I'D BE LEFT ALONE... AGAIN.

AS WE ENTERED THE HOSPITAL, A DIABOLICAL PLAN WAS ALREADY BREWING IN MY MIND. THE ONLY THING I NEEDED NOW WAS AN OPPORTUNITY.

WAIT HERE, BARN. I GOTTA GO TO THE JOHN.

Ah... PENNIES FROM HEAVEN.

♪♫♫♪♫

WHAT'S *WRONG*, SAL?

I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING.

THAT'S JUST IT. USUALLY YOU'RE ALWAYS COMPLAINING ABOUT *SOMETHING*.

IT'S EITHER YOUR *BOOZED* UP HUSBAND OR YOUR *REBELLIOUS KIDS*...

BEEN TALKIN' TO THAT GIRL IN 240-B.

YOU MEAN... Uh... MISS *MAGGIE BROWN*?

LEAST I *GOT* A HUSBAND... A *FAMILY*... SHE AIN'T GOT *NOTHIN'*!

HECK, SAL! SHE'LL GET *SOMEONE*! SHE'S *PRETTY*!

SURE. SHE'S GOT A FACE THAT'LL BEAT ALL... BUT *SHY*... AND *BLIND*... THINGS COULDN'T GET ANY *WORSE*, HONEY.

LISTENING TO HER MAKES *MY* PROBLEMS SEEM SO... *SMALL*.

I DON'T *BELIEVE* IT!

SAL HENSLEY IS *ACTUALLY* WORRIED ABOUT *SOMEBODY ELSE*! WILL MIRACLES *EVER CEASE*?

IF ONLY I COULD *HELP* HER... *HITCH* HER UP WITH SOMEBODY...

BUT WHOM?

♪Oh, I BELIEVE IN MIRACLES.♪

YES, I DO.

Hmmmm.

Oh, I BELIEVE IN MIRACLES.

Ah. HERE'S SOME UNIFORMS. I'LL JUST PUT ONE ON... PRETEND I'M MAGGIE BROWN'S PHYSICIAN... TELL HER GETTING TO KNOW MASKED MEN IS BAD FOR HER HEALTH.
SHE'LL LISTEN TO HER DOCTOR.
AND RIGHT HERE, GENTLEMEN, IS THE MENTAL HEALTH WARD.
AS YOU CAN SEE, THERE ARE NO EXITS. THE WHOLE HOSPITAL IS SECURE.
THEN OUR DEAR PRINCESS MARIA IS SAFE.
CONCLUSIVELY. ESPECIALLY SINCE WE'VE TRANSFERRED ALL THE PATIENTS OFF HER FLOOR. THE LAST TO GO WAS A BLIND GIRL... A MISS MAGGIE BROWN.
I HEARD THAT.
THERE'S A BLIND PRINCESS SOMEWHERE IN THE HOSPITAL. I'LL HAVE TO GO SAVE HER.
NO ONE CAN STOP ME. NO ONE. LITTLE DO THEY REALIZE I AM THE AMAZING...
APHIDMAN!!
INTELLIGENCE REPORTS THE PRINCESS IS ON THE FIFTH FLOOR.
THE WHOLE HOSPITAL IS FULL OF GUARDS!
WE HAVE OUR JOB CUT OUT FOR US!
LET'S GO.
MASKED MAN! WAIT!
Huh?
I'VE GOT SOMEONE I WANT YOU TO MEET.
SORRY, MA'AM. THERE'S SOMEONE I'VE GOT TO MEET, TOO.
PLEASE... IT'LL JUST TAKE A MINUTE.
BUT...
PLEASE!!
APHIDMAN CRAWLS ALONG THE EDGE WITH A DETERMINED BROW. CHECKING EACH ROOM AS HE GOES...LOOKING FOR THE PRINCESS.

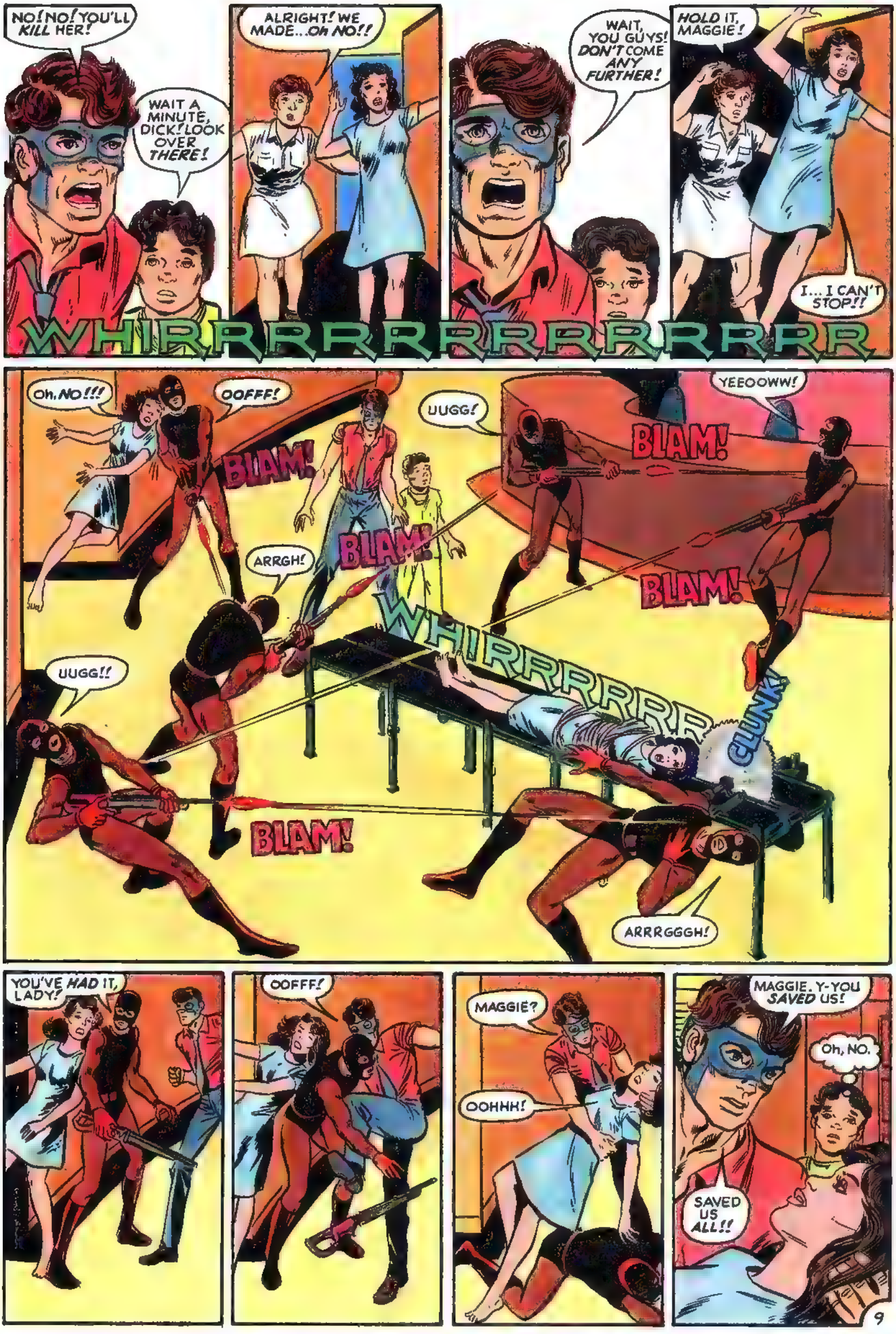
SUDDENLY HE FEELS A WARM SENSATION. HIS APHID SENSES GO WILD. THE PRINCESS MUST BE INSIDE.
ALRIGHT, YOU GUYS... ATTACK!
BLAM POW BLAM BLAM BLAM POW WHACK
GOT TO CONCENTRATE ON MY DIABOLICAL PLAN... CAN'T LET ANYTHING DISTRACT ME.
WELL, HELLO, THERE.
Hmm. SHE LOOKS DIFFERENT. MUST BE THE PRESSURE I'M UNDER.
THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, MA'AM. THEY JUST CALLED ME IN. I'M YOUR CORONER.
WHAT!
THEY SAID A MASKED MAN BROUGHT YOU IN HERE. DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT CAN DO TO YOUR HEALTH?
YOU'RE CRAZY!!
YOU'RE GETTING NERVOUS, MISS BROWN. THAT'S ONE OF THE SYMPTOMS.
I'M NOT MISS BROWN! I'M PRINCESS MARIA!
Hmmm. I'M CONFUSING HER BETTER THAN I THOUGHT.
PLEASE, MASKED MAN, COME SEE HER.
YOU SAY YOUR NAME IS SAL?
YES.
TELL ME, SAL, WHAT'S ALL THAT NOISE GOING ON OVER THERE?
BLAM POWPOW
WE'RE BEATING THEM DOWN!
SOON THE PRINCESS WILL BE OURS!!
BLAM POW

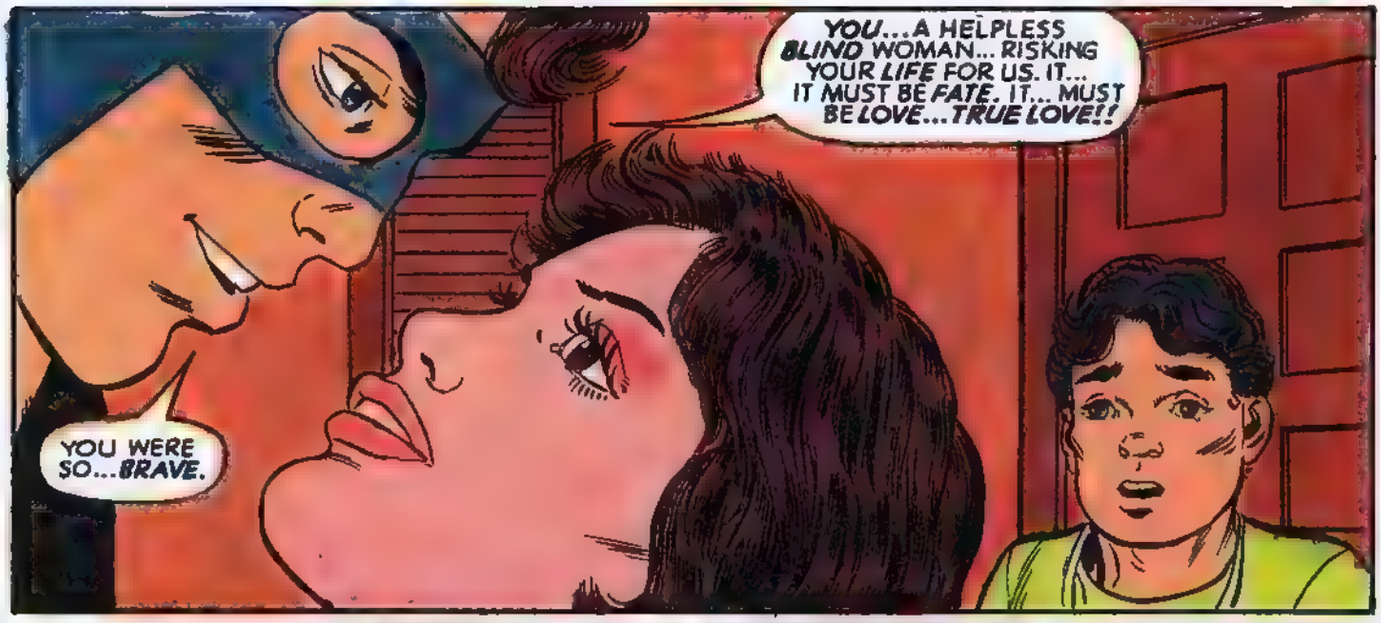
LET ME GO! I DON'T CARE NOW AMAZING YOU ARE! AND WHERE DO YOU GET OFF CALLING ME PRINCESS MARIA?! I'M MAGGIE BROWN.
SHE'S DELIRIOUS. BEING IN THE PRESENCE OF A SUPERHERO DOES THAT TO PEOPLE.
MY PLAN'S NOT WORKING. I'VE GOT TO TRY SOMETHING ELSE IN ORDER TO GET HER OUT OF HERE BEFORE DICK SHOWS UP.
SO...Uh... YOU SAY YOU'RE A PRINCESS?
YES.
Uh... DID YOU KNOW THERE'S A BLACK MARKET FOR KIDNAPPED PRINCESSES?
Oh, NO! DON'T TELL ME UNDERGROUND FOUND OUT I'M HERE?!?
Uh... YEAH. THEY DID.
WHERE WILL I GO?!?
DON'T WORRY. I'VE GOT A PLAN.
ALRIGHT, MEN. SHE SHOULD BE IN HERE!
'SCUSE ME.
C'MON!
WHERE'D HE GO?
WHERE'D HE GO?
WHERE'D HE GO?
THERE HE IS!!!
LET'S GET THEM!
HEY! WHAT'S ALL THE RACKET ABOU...
GASP! TERRORISTS!!

SAY, AREN'T YOU THE MASKED...
BAM!
WAIT HERE.
Oh, NO!
DON'T WORRY, MAGGIE. I'M COMIN' FOR YA. OL' SAL'S GONNA GET YOU TWO TOGETHER IT IT'S THE LAST THING I DO.
I'VE GOT TO KEEP THEM APART... IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO. BUT HOW?
Hmm. YOU LOST ONE, huh?
YEP.
CAN I GET UP NOW?
NOPE.
SHE WON'T MOVE!
SHE'S IN AWE OF HIS MYSTIC MIGHT!
HE DECIDES TO TAKE HER IN HIS ARMS... SMOTHER HER WITH KISSES... SHOW HER APHIDMAN GETS WHAT HE WANTS. NO ONE CAN STOP...
WHACK
MAGGIE?
SAL?
THERE'S SOMEONE I WANT YOU TO MEET!
WHO?
THE MASKED MAN!
H...HE'S HERE?
NOW'S YOUR CHANCE TO MEET A REAL KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR!

THERE THEY ARE.
ATTACK!!
Oh, NO!
DON'T WORRY, BARN.
I'LL SAVE YA!
THINGS ARE GETTING DESPERATE. WE'VE GOT TO DISPOSE OF THE PRINCESS NOW! BREAK OUT THE EQUIPMENT!!!

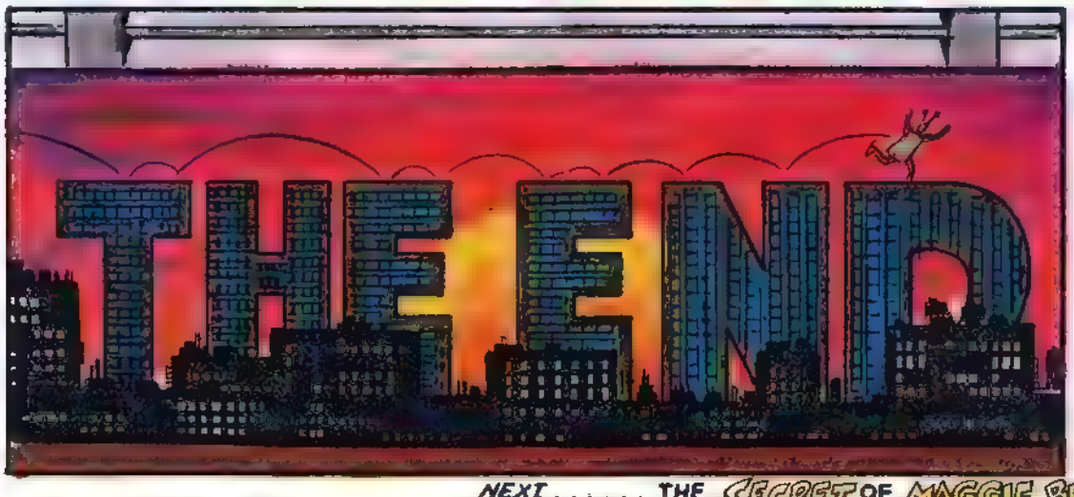
HURRY!
S-SAL-PUFF-E W-WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
DON'T RIGHTLY KNOW, HONEY.
ALL I KNOW IS IT SURE FEELS GOOD HELPING SOMEONE ELSE FOR A CHANGE.
HE WON'T GIVE US ANY MORE TROUBLE. PUT HER ON THE RACK!
FOR THE REVOLUTION... AND ALL YOUR PAST CRIMES... WE SENTENCE YOU TO DEATH!!
MY FATHER WILL GET YOU FOR THIS!
TIE HER UP GOOD...
COME ON!
CLICK
WHIRRRR
ALMOST THERE!
WHIRRRR


NO! NO! YOU'LL KILL HER!
WAIT A MINUTE, DICK! LOOK OVER THERE!
ALRIGHT! WE MADE...Oh NO!!
WAIT, YOU GUYS! DON'T COME ANY FURTHER!
HOLD IT, MAGGIE!
I... I CAN'T STOP!!
WHIRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR
Oh, NO!!!
OOFFF!
BLAM!
UUGG!
YEEOOWW!
BLAM!
ARRGH!
BLAM!
BLAM!
WHIRRRRRRR
CLUNK
UUGG!!
BLAM!
ARRRGGGH!
YOU'VE HAD IT, LADY!
OOFFF!
MAGGIE?
OOHHH!
MAGGIE. Y-YOU SAVED US!
Oh, NO.
SAVED US ALL!!

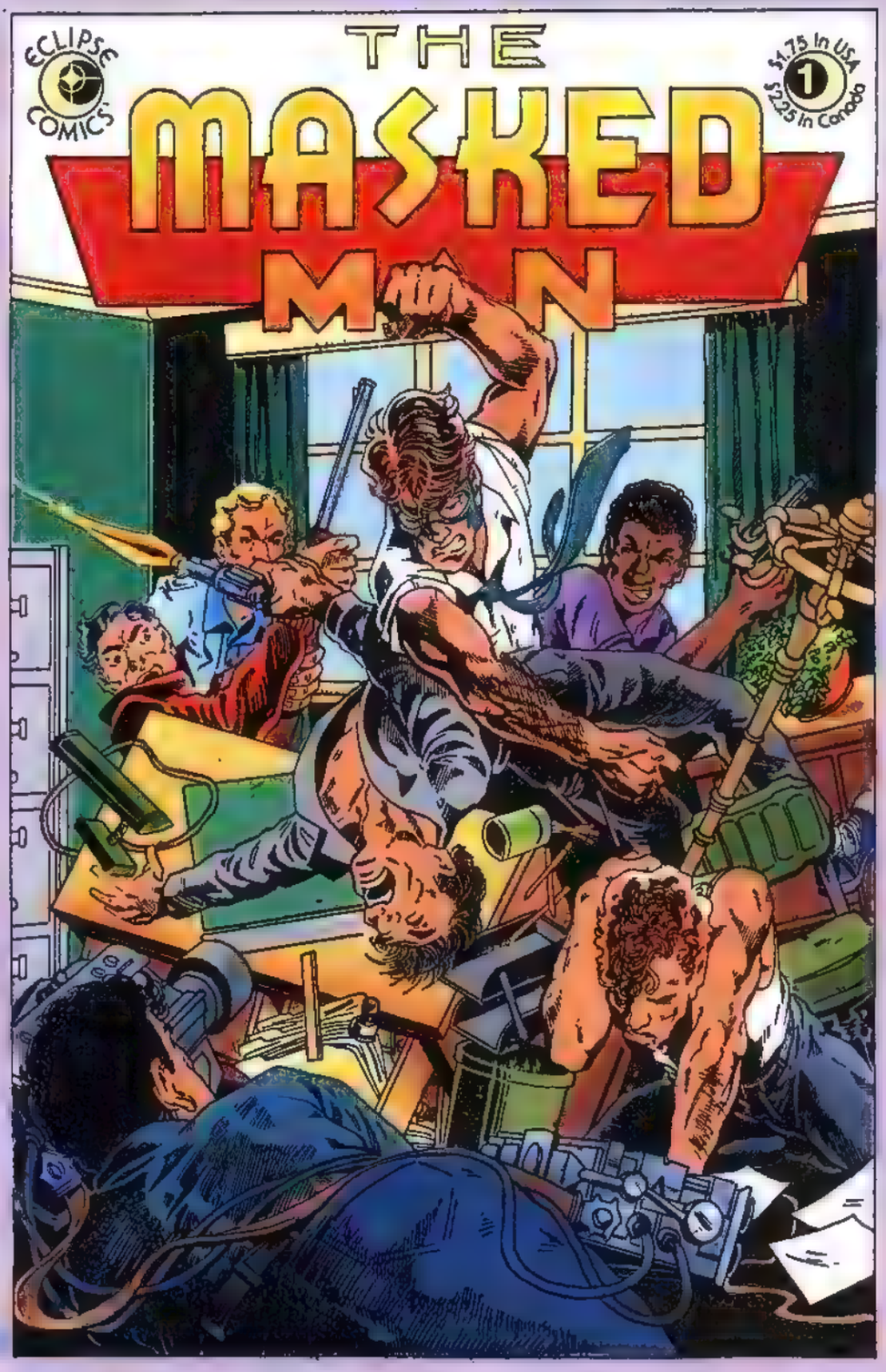

YOU... A HELPLESS BLIND WOMAN... RISKING YOUR LIFE FOR US. IT... IT MUST BE FATE. IT... MUST BE LOVE... TRUE LOVE!!
YOU WERE SO... BRAVE.

Oh, WELL... I GUESS IT'S NO USE TRYING TO FIGHT AGAINST SOMETHING THAT'S BIGGER THAN ME.

SEEN HIM?
NOPE.
LET'S CHECK THE HALLWAYS.
RIGHT.


THE END

THE BOOK YOU DEMANDED WE PUBLISH



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